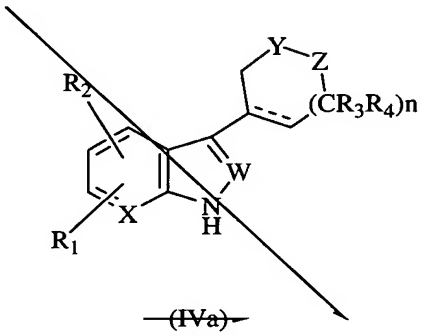
IN THE CLAIMS:

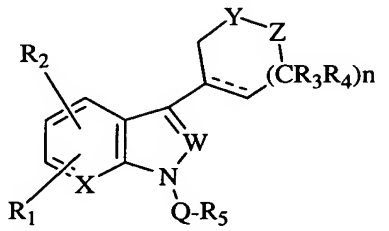
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula I



~~(IVa)~~



(I)

wherein

Q is SO_2, ~~CO, CONR$_{24}$, CSNR$_{25}$ or CH$_2$~~;

W is N or CR_6;

X is N or CR_7 with the proviso that when W is N then X must be N;

Y is NR_8 or CR_9R_{10};

n is an integer of 1 [[or 2]];

Z is NR_{11} or $CR_{12}R_{13}$ with the proviso that when n is 1, Q is SO_2, CO or CH_2 and W is CR_6 then Z must be $CR_{12}R_{13}$ and with the further provisos that when Y is NR_8 then Z must be $CR_{12}R_{13}$ and at least one of Y and Z must be NR_8 or NR_{11};

R_1, R_2 and R_7 are each independently H, halogen, CN, OCO_2R_{14}, CO_2R_{15}, $CONR_{29}R_{30}$, $CNR_{16}NR_{17}R_{18}$, SO_mR_{19}, $NR_{20}R_{21}$, OR_{22}, COR_{23} or a C_1-C_6alkyl, C_2-C_6alkenyl, C_2-C_6alkynyl, C_3-C_6cycloalkyl, cycloheteroalkyl, aryl or heteroaryl group each optionally substituted;

R_3, R_4, R_9, R_{10}, R_{12} and R_{13} are each independently H or an optionally substituted C_1-C_6alkyl group;

R_5 is an optionally substituted C_1-C_6alkyl, aryl or heteroaryl group;

m is 0 or an integer of 1 or 2;

R_6 is H, halogen, or an optionally substituted C_1-C_6alkyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy, aryl or heteroaryl group;

R_8 and R_{11} are each independently H, $CNR_{26}NR_{27}R_{28}$ or a C_1-C_6alkyl, C_3-C_6cycloalkyl, cycloheteralkyl, aryl or heteroaryl group ~~each optionally substituted~~;

R_{14}, R_{15}, R_{22} and R_{23} are each independently H or an optionally substituted C_1-C_6alkyl, C_2-C_6alkenyl, C_2-C_6alkynyl, C_3-C_6cycloalkyl, cycloheteroalkyl, aryl or heteroaryl group;

R_{16}, R_{17}, R_{18}, R_{20}, R_{21}, R_{26}, R_{27}, R_{28}, R_{29} and R_{30} are each independently H or C_1-C_4alkyl;

R_{19} is an optionally substituted C_1-C_6alkyl, aryl or heteroaryl group;

R_{24} and R_{25} are each independently H or an optionally substituted C_1-C_6alkyl, aryl or heteroaryl group; and

---- represents a single bond or a double bond; or

the stereoisomers thereof or the pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

2. (Original) The compound according to claim 1 wherein Y is NR_8.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Original) The compound according to claim 1 wherein W is N.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Original) The compound according to claim 4 wherein Z is NR_{11}.

7. (Currently Amended) The compound according to claim [[5]] 1 wherein Q is SO_2 and R_5 is an optionally substituted aryl or heteroaryl group.

8. (Original) The compound according to claim 7 wherein X is CH and ---- represents a single bond.

9. (Currently Amended) The compound according to claim 1 selected from the group consisting of:

~~1 (phenylsulfonyl) 3 (piperidin 4 yl) 1H indazole;~~

~~1 (4 nitrophenylsulfonyl) 3 (piperidin 4 yl) 1H indazole;~~

~~1 (4 fluorophenylsulfonyl) 3 (piperidin 4 yl) 1H indazole;~~

~~1 (3,4 dimethoxyphenylsulfonyl) 3 (piperidin 4 yl) 1H indazole;~~

~~1 phenylsulfonyl 3 (1 methylpiperidin 4 yl) 1H indazole;~~

~~1 phenylsulfonyl 3 (1 methyl 1,2,3,6 tetrahydropyridin 4 yl) 1H indazole;~~

~~1 phenylsulfonyl 3 (1 methylazepan 4 yl) 1H pyrrolo[2,3 b]pyridine;~~

~~1 phenylsulfonyl 3 (1 methylazepan 4 yl) 1H indole;~~

~~1 phenylsulfonyl 5 fluoro 3 (1 methylazepan 4 yl) 1H indole;~~

~~1 phenylsulfonyl 3 (1 methyl 2,3,6,7 tetrahydro 1H azepin 4 yl) 1H indole;~~

~~1 phenylsulfonyl 3 (1 methyl 2,5,6,7 tetrahydro 1H azepin 4 yl) 1H indole;~~

~~1 phenylsulfonyl 3 (1 methyl 2,3,6,7 tetrahydro 1H azepin 4 yl) 1H pyrrolo[2,3 b]pyridine;~~

~~1 phenylsulfonyl 5 fluoro 3 (1 methyl 2,3,6,7 tetrahydro 1H azepin 4 yl) 1H indole;~~

~~1 phenylsulfonyl 5 fluoro 3 (1 methyl 2,5,6,7 tetrahydro 1H azepin 4 yl) 1H indole;~~

~~1 phenylsulfonyl 5 chloro 3 (1 methylpiperidin 4 yl) 1H indazole;~~

~~5 methoxy 3 (1 methyl 1,2,3,6 tetrahydropyridin 4 yl) 1 (naphth 1 yl sulfonyl) 1H indazole;~~

~~3 (1 methylazepan 4 yl) 1 (naphth 1 yl sulfonyl) 1H pyrrolo[2,3 b]pyridine;~~

~~3 (1 methylazepan 4 yl) 1 (naphth 1 yl sulfonyl) 1H indole;~~

~~1 (benzo[b]thien 4 ylsulfonyl) 5 fluoro 3 (1 methylazepan 4 yl) 1H indole;~~

~~8 [3 (1 methyl 2,3,6,7 tetrahydro 1H azepin 4 yl) indole 1 sulfonyl] quinoline;~~

~~3 (1 methyl 2,5,6,7 tetrahydro 1H azepin 4 yl) 1 (naphth 1 ylsulfonyl) 1H indole;~~

~~8 [3 (1 methyl 2,3,6,7 tetrahydro 1H azepin 4 yl) pyrrolo[2,3 b]pyridine 1 sulfonyl] quinoline;~~

~~8-[5-fluoro-3-(1-methyl-2,3,6,7-tetrahydro-1H-azepin-4-yl)-indole-1-sulfonyl]-quinoline;~~

~~5-fluoro-3-(1-methyl-2,5,6,7-tetrahydro-1H-azepin-4-yl)-1-(naphth-1-ylsulfonyl)-1H-indole;~~

~~5-chloro-1-(3-fluorophenylsulfonyl)-3-piperidin-4-yl-1H-indazole;~~

~~5-methoxy-1-(naphth-1-ylsulfonyl)-3-(1,2,2-trimethyl-1,2,3,6-tetrahydro-pyridin-4-yl)-1H-indazole;~~

~~1-(naphth-1-ylsulfonyl)-3-(1-phenethyl-azepan-4-yl)-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine;~~

~~3-azepan-4-yl-1-(naphth-1-ylsulfonyl)-1H-indole;~~

~~3-azepan-4-yl-1-(3-chloro-5-methyl-benzo[b]thien-2-ylsulfonyl)-5-fluoro-1H-indole;~~

~~8-[3-(1-phenethyl-2,3,6,7-tetrahydro-1H-azepin-4-yl)-indole-1-sulfonyl]-quinoline;~~

~~3-[1-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-2,5,6,7-tetrahydro-1H-azepin-4-yl]-1-(naphth-2-ylsulfonyl)-1H-indole;~~

~~1-(2,3-dichlorophenylsulfonyl)-3-(1-methyl-2,3,6,7-tetrahydro-1H-azepin-4-yl)-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-]pyridine;~~

~~1-[(3-chloro-5-methoxyphenylsulfonyl)]-3-(2,2-dimethyl-2,3,6,7-tetrahydro-1H-azepin-4-yl)-5-fluoro-1H-indole;~~

~~3-azepan-4-yl-5-fluoro-1-(naphth-2-ylsulfonyl)-1H-indole;~~

1-benzenesulfonyl-3-piperidin-3-yl-1H-indole;

1-(4-isopropyl-benzenesulfonyl)-3-piperidin-3-yl-1H-indole;

1-(5-chloro-thiophene-2-sulfonyl)-3-piperidin-3-yl-1H-indole;

1-(3-chloro-benzenesulfonyl)-3-piperidin-3-yl-1H-indole;

1-(3,4-difluoro-benzenesulfonyl)-3-piperidin-3-yl-1H-indole;

1-(4-trifluoromethoxy-benzenesulfonyl)-3-piperidin-3-yl-1H-indole;

1-(4-methoxy-benzenesulfonyl)-3-piperidin-3-yl-1H-indole;

1-(4-trifluoromethy-benzenesulfonyl)-3-piperidin-3-yl-1H-indole;

1-(3-chloro-4-methyl-benzenesulfonyl)-3-piperidin-3-yl-1H-indole;

1-(2-chloro-4-trifluoromethyl-benzenesulfonyl)-3-piperidin-3-yl-1H-indole;

1-(2-naphthylenesulfonyl)-3-piperidin-3-yl-1H-indole;

1-(5-chloro-3-methyl-benzo[b]thiophene-2-sulfonyl)-3-piperidin-3-yl-1H-indole;

1-(2,6-dichloro-imidazo[2,1-b]thiazole-5-sulfonyl)-3-piperidin-3-yl-1H-indole;

2-chloro-3-(3-piperidin-3-yl-indole-1-sulfonyl)-imidazo[1,2-a]pyridine;

2-chloro-3-(3-piperidin-3-yl-indole-1-sulfonyl)-benzo[d]imidazo[2,1-b]thiazole;

1-(4-isopropyl-benzenesulfonyl)-3-piperidin-3-yl-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine;

1-(5-chloro-thiophene-2-sulfonyl)-3-piperidin-3-yl-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine;

1-(3-chloro-benzenesulfonyl)-3-piperidin-3-yl-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine;

1-(3,4-difluoro -benzenesulfonyl)-3-piperidin-3-yl-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine;

1-(4-trifluoromethoxy-benzenesulfonyl)-3-piperidin-3-yl-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine;

1-(3-chloro-4-methyl-benzenesulfonyl)-3-piperidin-3-yl-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine;

1-(2-chloro-4-trifluoromethyl-benzenesulfonyl)-3-piperidin-3-yl-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine;

1-(2-naphthylenesulfonyl)-3- piperidin-3-yl-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine;

1-(5-chloro-3-methyl-benzo[b]thiophene-2-sulfonyl)-3-piperidin-3-yl-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine;

2-chloro-3-(3-piperidin-3-yl-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine-1-sulfonyl)-imidazo[1,2-a]pyridine;

2-chloro-3-(3-piperidin-3-yl-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine-1-sulfonyl)-benzo[d]imidazo[2,1-b]thiazole; and

the pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

10. (Cancelled)

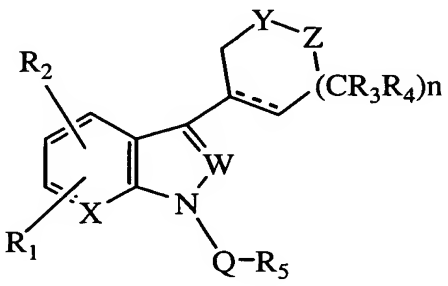
11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

13 (Cancelled)

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition which comprises a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and an effective amount of a compound of formula I



(I)

wherein

Q is SO_2, ~~CO, $CONR_{24}$, $CSNR_{25}$ or CH_2~~;

W is N or CR_6;

X is N or CR_7 with the proviso that when W is N then X must be N;

Y is NR_8 or CR_9R_{10};

n is an integer of 1 [[or 2]];

Z is NR_{11} or $CR_{12}R_{13}$ with the proviso that when n is 1, Q is SO_2, CO or CH_2 and W is CR_6 then Z must be $CR_{12}R_{13}$ and with the further provisos that when Y is NR_8 then Z must be $CR_{12}R_{13}$ and at least one of Y and Z must be NR_8 or NR_{11};

R_1, R_2 and R_7 are each independently H, halogen, CN, OCO_2R_{14}, CO_2R_{15}, $CONR_{29}R_{30}$, $CNR_{16}NR_{17}R_{18}$, SO_mR_{19}, $NR_{20}R_{21}$, OR_{22}, COR_{23} or a C_1-C_6alkyl, C_2-C_6alkenyl, C_2-C_6alkynyl, C_3-C_6cycloalkyl, cycloheteroalkyl, aryl or heteroaryl group each optionally substituted;

R_3, R_4, R_9, R_{10}, R_{12} and R_{13} are each independently H or an optionally substituted C_1-C_6alkyl group;

R_5 is an optionally substituted C_1-C_6alkyl, aryl or heteroaryl group;

m is 0 or an integer of 1 or 2;

R_6 is H, halogen, or an optionally substituted C_1-C_6alkyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy, aryl or heteroaryl group;

R_8 and R_{11} are each independently H, $CNR_{26}NR_{27}R_{28}$ or a C_1-C_6alkyl, C_3-C_6cycloalkyl, cycloheteralkyl, aryl or heteroaryl group ~~each optionally substituted~~;

R_{14}, R_{15}, R_{22} and R_{23} are each independently H or an optionally substituted C_1-C_6alkyl, C_2-C_6alkenyl, C_2-C_6alkynyl, C_3-C_6cycloalkyl, cycloheteroalkyl, aryl or heteroaryl group;

R_{16}, R_{17}, R_{18}, R_{20}, R_{21}, R_{26}, R_{27}, R_{28}, R_{29} and R_{30} are each independently H or C_1-C_4alkyl;

R_{19} is an optionally substituted C_1-C_6alkyl, aryl or heteroaryl group;

R_{24} and R_{25} are each independently H or an optionally substituted C_1-C_6alkyl, aryl or heteroaryl group; and

---- represents a single bond or a double bond; or

the stereoisomers thereof or the pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

16. (Original) The composition according to claim 15 having a formula I compound wherein n is 1; Q is SO_2; Y is NR_8; and X is CR_7.

17. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 15 having a formula I compound wherein Q is SO_2; X is CR_7; and Z is NR_{11}.

18. (Original) The composition according to claim 16 having a formula I compound wherein R_5 is an optionally substituted aryl group and ---- represents a single bond.

19. (Currently Amended) The composition according to claim 15 having a formula I compound selected from the group consisting of:

~~1-(phenylsulfonyl)-3-(piperidin-4-yl)-1H-indazole;~~

~~1-(4-nitrophenylsulfonyl)-3-(piperidin-4-yl)-1H-indazole;~~

~~1-(4-fluorophenylsulfonyl)-3-(piperidin-4-yl)-1H-indazole;~~

~~1-(3,4-dimethoxyphenylsulfonyl)-3-(piperidin-4-yl)-1H-indazole;~~

~~1-phenylsulfonyl-3-(1-methylpiperidin-4-yl)-1H-indazole;~~

~~1-phenylsulfonyl-3-(1-methyl-1,2,3,6-tetrahydropyridin-4-yl)-1H-indazole;~~

~~1 phenylsulfonyl 3 (1 methylazepan 4 yl) 1H pyrrolo[2,3 b]pyridine;~~

~~1 phenylsulfonyl 3 (1 methylazepan 4 yl) 1H indole;~~

~~1 phenylsulfonyl 5 fluoro 3 (1 methylazepan 4 yl) 1H indole;~~

~~1 phenylsulfonyl 3 (1 methyl 2,3,6,7 tetrahydro 1H azepin 4 yl) 1H indole;~~

~~1 phenylsulfonyl 3 (1 methyl 2,5,6,7 tetrahydro 1H azepin 4 yl) 1H indole;~~

~~1 phenylsulfonyl 3 (1 methyl 2,3,6,7 tetrahydro 1H azepin 4 yl) 1H pyrrolo[2,3 b]pyridine;~~

~~1 phenylsulfonyl 5 fluoro 3 (1 methyl 2,3,6,7 tetrahydro 1H azepin 4 yl) 1H indole;~~

~~1 phenylsulfonyl 5 fluoro 3 (1 methyl 2,5,6,7 tetrahydro 1H azepin 4 yl) 1H indole;~~

~~1 phenylsulfonyl 5 chloro 3 (1 methylpiperidin 4 yl) 1H indazole;~~

~~5 methoxy 3 (1 methyl 1,2,3,6 tetrahydropyridin 4 yl) 1 (naphth 1 yl sulfonyl) 1H indazole;~~

~~3 (1 methylazepan 4 yl) 1 (naphth 1 yl sulfonyl) 1H pyrrolo[2,3 b]pyridine;~~

~~3 (1 methylazepan 4 yl) 1 (naphth 1 yl sulfonyl) 1H indole;~~

~~1 (benzo[b]thien 4 ylsulfonyl) 5 fluoro 3 (1 methylazepan 4 yl) 1H indole;~~

~~8 [3 (1 methyl 2,3,6,7 tetrahydro 1H azepin 4 yl) indole 1 sulfonyl] quinoline;~~

~~3 (1 methyl 2,5,6,7 tetrahydro 1H azepin 4 yl) 1 (naphth 1 ylsulfonyl) 1H indole;~~

~~8 [3 (1 methyl 2,3,6,7 tetrahydro 1H azepin 4 yl) pyrrolo[2,3 b]pyridine 1 sulfonyl] quinoline;~~

~~8 [5 fluoro 3 (1 methyl 2,3,6,7 tetrahydro 1H azepin 4 yl) indole 1 sulfonyl] quinoline;~~

~~5 fluoro 3 (1 methyl 2,5,6,7 tetrahydro 1H azepin 4 yl) 1 (naphth 1 ylsulfonyl) 1H indole;~~

~~5 chloro 1 (3 fluorophenylsulfonyl) 3 piperidin 4 yl 1H indazole;~~

~~5 methoxy 1 (naphth 1 ylsulfonyl) 3 (1,2,2 trimethyl 1,2,3,6 tetrahydro pyridin 4 yl) 1H indazole;~~

~~1 (naphth 1 ylsulfonyl) 3 (1 phenethyl azepan 4 yl) 1H pyrrolo[2,3 b]pyridine;~~

~~3-azepan-4-yl-1-(naphth-1-ylsulfonyl)-1H-indole;~~

~~3-azepan-4-yl-1-(3-chloro-5-methyl-benzo[b]thien-2-ylsulfonyl)-5-fluoro-1H-indole;~~

~~8-[3-(1-phenethyl-2,3,6,7-tetrahydro-1H-azepin-4-yl)-indole-1-sulfonyl]-quinoline;~~

~~3-[1-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-2,5,6,7-tetrahydro-1H-azepin-4-yl]-1-(naphth-2-ylsulfonyl)-1H-indole;~~

~~1-(2,3-dichlorophenylsulfonyl)-3-(1-methyl-2,3,6,7-tetrahydro-1H-azepin-4-yl)-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-]pyridine;~~

~~1-[(3-chloro-5-methoxyphenylsulfonyl)]-3-(2,2-dimethyl-2,3,6,7-tetrahydro-1H-azepin-4-yl)-5-fluoro-1H-indole;~~

~~3-azepan-4-yl-5-fluoro-1-(naphth-2-ylsulfonyl)-1H-indole;~~

1-benzenesulfonyl-3-piperidin-3-yl-1H-indole;

1-(4-isopropyl-benzenesulfonyl)-3-piperidin-3-yl-1H-indole;

1-(5-chloro-thiophene-2-sulfonyl)-3-piperidin-3-yl-1H-indole;

1-(3-chloro-benzenesulfonyl)-3-piperidin-3-yl-1H-indole;

1-(3,4-difluoro-benzenesulfonyl)-3-piperidin-3-yl-1H-indole;

1-(4-trifluoromethoxy-benzenesulfonyl)-3-piperidin-3-yl-1H-indole;

1-(4-methoxy-benzenesulfonyl)-3-piperidin-3-yl-1H-indole;

1-(4-trifluoromethy-benzenesulfonyl)-3-piperidin-3-yl-1H-indole;

1-(3-chloro-4-methyl-benzenesulfonyl)-3-piperidin-3-yl-1H-indole;

1-(2-chloro-4-trifluoromethyl-benzenesulfonyl)-3-piperidin-3-yl-1H-indole;

1-(2-naphthylenesulfonyl)-3-piperidin-3-yl-1H-indole;

1-(5-chloro-3-methyl-benzo[b]thiophene-2-sulfonyl)-3-piperidin-3-yl-1H-indole;

1-(2,6-dichloro-imidazo[2,1-b]thiazole-5-sulfonyl)-3-piperidin-3-yl-1H-indole;

2-chloro-3-(3-piperidin-3-yl-indole-1-sulfonyl)-imidazo[1,2-a]pyridine;

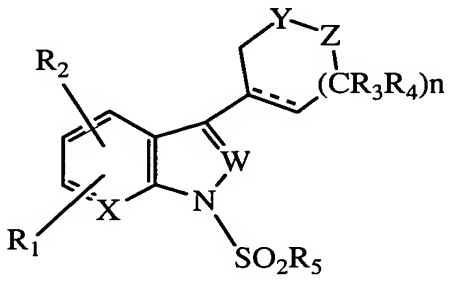
2-chloro-3-(3-piperidin-3-yl-indole-1-sulfonyl)-benzo[d]imidazo[2,1-b]thiazole;

1-(4-isopropyl-benzenesulfonyl)-3-piperidin-3-yl-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine;

1-(5-chloro-thiophene-2-sulfonyl)-3-piperidin-3-yl-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine;

1-(3-chloro-benzenesulfonyl)-3-piperidin-3-yl-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine;
1-(3,4-difluoro -benzenesulfonyl)-3-piperidin-3-yl-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine;
1-(4-trifluoromethoxy-benzenesulfonyl)-3-piperidin-3-yl-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine;
1-(3-chloro-4-methyl-benzenesulfonyl)-3-piperidin-3-yl-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine;
1-(2-chloro-4-trifluoromethyl-benzenesulfonyl)-3-piperidin-3-yl-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine;
1-(2-naphthylenesulfonyl)-3- piperidin-3-yl-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine;
1-(5-chloro-3-methyl-benzo[b]thiophene-2-sulfonyl)-3-piperidin-3-yl-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine;
2-chloro-3-(3-piperidin-3-yl-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine-1-sulfonyl)-imidazo[1,2-a]pyridine;
2-chloro-3-(3-piperidin-3-yl-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine-1-sulfonyl)-benzo[d]imidazo[2,1-b]thiazole; and
the pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

20. (Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of a compound of formula If



(If)

wherein
Q is SO_2, ~~CO, CONR$_{24}$, CSNR$_{25}$ or CH$_2$~~;
W is N or CR_6;
X is N or CR, with the proviso that when W is N then X must be N;
Y is NR_8 or CR_9R_{10};
n is an integer of 1 [[or 2]];

Z is NR_{11} or $CR_{12}R_{13}$ with the proviso that when n is 1, Q is SO_2, CO or CH_2 and W is CR_6 then Z must be $CR_{12}R_{13}$ and with the further provisos that when Y is NR_8 then Z must be $CR_{12}R_{13}$ and at least one of Y and Z must be NR_8 or NR_{11};

R_1, R_2 and R_7 are each independently H, halogen, CN, OCO_2R_{14}, CO_2R_{15}, $CONR_{29}R_{30}$, $CNR_{16}NR_{17}R_{18}$, SO_mR_{19}, $NR_{20}R_{21}$, OR_{22}, COR_{23} or a C_1-C_6alkyl, C_2-C_6alkenyl, C_2-C_6alkynyl, C_3-C_6cycloalkyl, cycloheteroalkyl, aryl or heteroaryl group each optionally substituted;

R_3, R_4, R_9, R_{10}, R_{12} and R_{13} are each independently H or an optionally substituted C_1-C_6alkyl group;

R_5 is an optionally substituted C_1-C_6alkyl, aryl or heteroaryl group;

m is 0 or an integer of 1 or 2;

R_6 is H, halogen, or an optionally substituted C_1-C_6alkyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy, aryl or heteroaryl group;

R_8 and R_{11} are each independently H, $CNR_{26}NR_{27}R_{28}$ or a C_1-C_6alkyl, C_3-C_6cycloalkyl, cycloheteralkyl, aryl or heteroaryl group ~~each optionally substituted~~;

R_{14}, R_{15}, R_{22} and R_{23} are each independently H or an optionally substituted C_1-C_6alkyl, C_2-C_6alkenyl, C_2-C_6alkynyl, C_3-C_6cycloalkyl, cycloheteroalkyl, aryl or heteroaryl group;

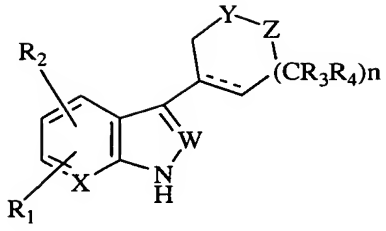
R_{16}, R_{17}, R_{18}, R_{20}, R_{21}, R_{26}, R_{27}, R_{28}, R_{29} and R_{30} are each independently H or C_1-C_4alkyl;

R_{19} is an optionally substituted C_1-C_6alkyl, aryl or heteroaryl group;

R_{24} and R_{25} are each independently H or an optionally substituted C_1-C_6alkyl, aryl or heteroaryl group; and

---- represents a single bond or a double bond

which process comprises reacting a compound of formula IVa



(IVa)

wherein W, X, Y, Z, n, R_1, R_2, R_3 and R_4 are as defined above with a sulfonyl chloride, R_5SO_2Cl, wherein R_5 is defined above in the presence of a base.